

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ACDA-07 OMB-01 TRSE-00 CIAE-00  
PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01  
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /064 W  
-----066013 101221Z /46

R 100742Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3563  
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK  
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA  
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR  
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE  
AMEMBASSY TOKYO  
CINCPAC  
SECDEF WASHDC

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E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: MARR, ASEAN, RP  
SUBJECT: DAILY EXPRESS EDITORIAL ON BASES, US-RP AGREEMENTS  
AND US-ASEAN TALKS

1. DAILY EXPRESS OF AUGUST 10 CARRIED LEAD EDITORIAL ON U.S.  
BASES, US-RP BILATERAL AGREEMENTS IN GENERAL AND UPCOMING  
US-ASEAN TALKS IN MANILA. CAREFUL FORMULATION OF PIECE AND  
FACT THAT IT APPEARED IN GOP'S PRIMARY PRESS OUTLET, WOULD  
SUGGEST THAT IT WAS OFFICIALLY INSPIRED. FULL TEXT IS AS  
FOLLOWS:

2. QUOTE. MUTUAL INTERESTS, MUTUAL RESPECT. THERE HAS BEEN  
LITTLE DOUBT THAT THE AMERICAN BASES HERE IN THE COUNTRY WOULD  
BE AROUND FOR QUITE SOME TIME, THE MILITARY PULL-OUT FROM  
VIETNAM AND THAILAND NOTWITHSTANDING. IN FACT, TALK OF  
SOUTHEAST ASIA BEING NO LONGER OF CRITICAL AND MILITARY  
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IMPORTANCE TO THE UNITED STATES SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN DOUSED  
BY A RECENT REPORT FROM SENIOR U.S. OFFICIALS THAT THE  
RP BASES, THE LAST IN THE SOUTHEAST ASIAN REGION, CONSTITUTE  
A VITAL DEFENSE LINK FOR THE U.S. AND MUST THUS BE RETAINED.

THE QUESTION OF CONTINUED AMERICAN PRESENCE IN THE PHILIP-  
PINES, OR IN ASIA FOR THAT MATTER, IS OF COURSE A MOST COMPLEX

ONE WHICH WOULD HAVE TO CONSIDER ALL THE INTRICACIES AND NUANCES OF AMERICAN DOMESTIC AND GLOBAL STRATEGIES AND POLICIES.

BUT THE FACT REMAINS THAT THE PHILIPPINES IS NOT MERELY A PAWN IN THE AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL GAME, AND WHATEVER PARTICIPATION OR COOPERATION THERE IS FROM THE PHILIPPINES SPRINGS FROM BILATERAL AGREEMENTS PREMISED ON MUTUAL BENEFIT, PURPOSE, COOPERATION AND RESPECT. IT IS IN THIS AREA THAT THE CLEAR INTENT OF THE UNITED STATES TO RETAIN THE BASES HERE IN THE COUNTRY MUST BE SERIOUSLY VIEWED BY BOTH THE UNITED STATES AND THE PHILIPPINES.

THE PAST FEW DECADES OF US-RP RELATIONS HAVE INCREASINGLY EXPOSED THE INEQUALITIES AND LOPSIDEDNESS OF THE AGREEMENTS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES, MOST PARTICULARLY THE PARITY RIGHTS AND THE BASES AGREEMENTS. TOO OFTEN--AS IN THE RECENT IRRITANTS CUASED BY THE FAILURE OF THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT TO IMPOSE ITS LAWS ON CRIMINALLY ACCUSED AMERICAN SERVICEMEN--THE PROVISIONS OF THE TREATIES AND AGREEMENTS BETWEEN THE TWO NATIONS HAVE GIVEN RISE TO DOUBTS ABOUT U.S. SINCERITY AND RESPECT FOR RP SOVEREIGNTY, AND TO DEMANDS THAT MORE EQUITABLE AGREEMENTS BE IMMEDIATELY FORGED TO CORRECT THE IMBALANCE IN THE RELATIONSHIP.

WITHOUT DOUBT, THE QUESTION OF AMERICAN PRESENCE IN THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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COUNTRY AND THE NEED TO MODIFY THE U.S. APPROACH TO FRIENDLY NATIONS WOULD SURFACE IN THE COMING ASEAN-US TALKS HERE IN MANILA, SEPTEMBER 7-9, WITH FOREIGN SECRETARY CARLOS P. ROMULO HEADING THE ASEAN PANEL. IT WOULD CERTAINLY NOT BE TOO MUCH TO EXPECT THAT MUTUALITY OF INTERESTS PRECLUDE A MUTUALITY OF RESPECT. END QUOTE.

STULL

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** ECONOMIC COOPERATION, PRESS COMMENTS, MILITARY BASE AGREEMENTS, MEETINGS  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
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**Decapton Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decapton Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Document Source:** CORE  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
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**Errors:** N/A  
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**Litigation History:**  
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**Office:** ACTION EA  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
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**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** DAILY EXPRESS EDITORIAL ON BASES, US-RP AGREEMENTS AND US-ASEAN TALKS  
**TAGS:** MARR, ECIN, RP, US, ASEAN  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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